REPORT TO RUCKINGE PARISH COUNCIL JULY 2025

Please accept my apologies for not being able to get to your meeting on Thursday 12th June. I look forward to the July meeting.
I am on holiday from now but I am in touch if a quick text. call or mail saves you time on any issue. It is just my feet will be dangling in the sea!

I would like to share with council my work going into the second part of 2025. It links into my overall strategy for keeping Ruckinge safe and secure as possible and then the wider Saxon Shore District.

1 Continued update to council at meetings with reports
2 Alerts into the community as required.
3 Writing in your newsletter on the website
5 Continuing to grow NHE membership, just filling in those odd gaps and the outlying off the beaten track premises.

Please never forget the hardest thing possible is to quantify what we have prevented and indeed will prevent with our working partnership in Ruckinge area with Neighbourhood Watch.

Another important part of the overall strategy is communication and working relationships with key other players.

MPS

I have met and set up working relationships with both MPs that cover the Ashford District. Katie Lam and Sojan Joseph.





Both MPs are completely committed to working with me for the benefit of everyone in the community.

Next is to ensure that following the KCC elections that the Councillor for the respective areas I cover and I have a strong working relationship going forwards.

Importantly to build working relationships with new KCC Councillors that border your area too. I have now met most of the new KCC councillors for Ashford District, and I have written to them all.

As I said Kent faces a busy couple of years. I am a lone voice now because I feel devolution could be measure in weeks away rather than the 2 years, that I regularly hear mentioned. A void of uncertainty is a gap criminals will drive through.

High on my list is to take intelligence and information on anticipate risks. They may not be in Ruckinge today, but could they be “clouds on the horizon”
It is important I also focus just over the horizon too and be ready to act.
I will update you on my work where I have written to 2 government ministers on Violence Against Women and Girls and New Build planning rules in July meeting.

I am pleased to report a strong working relationship building with the Police Rural team
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POLICE UPDATE
The last matter to report to you on is the ongoing battle to get police officers to attend council meetings.
The launch of the Policing model for Kent in June 2023, saw neighbourhood policing as the bedrock of the new police model.

Since that date the attendance of officers across the district has been appalling. The odd area has had the odd visit but fell well short of expectations. Most councils and residents cannot name their Beat Officer.
I have pursued a long battle with acrimonious discussions at times.

I have met with and written to the Police and Crime Commissioner several times and made numerous reports. Many councils have backed that work with submissions and letters to the police and the PCC.

The PCC was clear that he had agreement with Kent Police for an officer to attend council meetings **“AT LEAST ONCE A QUARTER”**
After several lively correspondences in recent days the following has emerged.

I am very grateful to all councils, councillors, none more so than the Saxon Shore councils, and all clerks who have backed up this work.

I sense we are nearly there, but this has been a brutal and frank process on the way, requiring some very frank talking. I was never going to give way on this. You all deserve their backing and support/advice and they will get so much from being at meetings as I have.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Dear Peter **RE: Beat Police Officers attending council meetings**

Thank you for your email.

Please be advised that the Commissioner met with KALC and the Assistant Chief Constable Nigel Brookes earlier last week and the principle of regular attendance was confirmed again.

He has raised concerns about attendance in Ashford District with the Commander for the area very recently too.

He is taking this matter seriously and hopes the situation improves.

Yours sincerely, Mrs Haleemah Muddasar

Casework officer

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Stay safe, secure, alert and vigilant

Thank you for all your support as always.

Take care

Peter

Peter New

Community Neighbourhood Watch.